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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Conference with Mr. C. H. Pruefer, Lt. Col. Mullen, and Mr. Biren  
(29 July 1953)

1. Mr. Pruefer suggested that a consolidated study of major strategic industries in the Soviet economy, particularly from the point of view of the allocation of output to military and other purposes (similar to IM-181, prepared in 1950), was needed at the present time. He understood that General Porter (J.I.C.) had such a project under consideration.

2. Mr. Pruefer observed that ORR reports useful to the work of his Branch frequently were delayed in reaching him (and presumably the same would be true of others) because of the slow process of circulation. He thought that separate brief abstracts of the longer definitive reports would meet the needs of many analysts and would facilitate the circulation problem.

3. Colonel Mullen was moved to make some critical observations upon some of our transportation studies. In his judgment, CIA/RR PR-31 (Railroad Transport Capabilities between the Soviet Frontier and Western Europe) considerably over-estimated the sustained capabilities. The Trans-Siberian paper was thought to give a somewhat better estimate. In general, Col. Mullen was of the opinion that the ORR reports tended to extrapolate short run possibilities to give unwarranted estimates of possible traffic movements over long periods. He suggested that such reports might benefit from fuller cooperation with the Intelligence Branch of the Office of the Chief of Transportation, of the Army. Col. Mullen agreed fully with the purposes of these studies and that they were greatly needed. I pointed out that the problems of coordination of technical matters lay outside the terms of reference of this present survey and suggested that such problems be considered through the Economic Intelligence Committee.

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